

the southwest rift zone of Mauna Loa, one of the most massive volcanoes in the world.

The geologic features of the proposed acquisition—three large pit craters—provide vestiges of native forest and other unique attributes. The property also includes ranch buildings, walls, and pasture lands that are reminiscent of nineteenth and early twentieth century ranching and contain remnant ranchlands that are not currently represented to the public by any National Park in Hawai'i. These buildings would provide public, office, educational, and research space for a much-needed satellite headquarters for this portion of the 333,000-acre park. And locating these services in these historic structures will preserve more of the natural resources of the park in an unspoiled condition.

The property also provides magnificent open landscape views and vistas that offer a glimpse into a cultural landscape that has remained unchanged for decades.

The geologic, biologic and cultural resources contained on this property will also enhance the quality of the park for its legislated purpose and as a World Heritage Site and International Biosphere Reserve. In addition, the park has a well-developed partnership with adjacent landowners in management of native ecosystems and historic landscapes and acquisition of this makai section of Kahuku will help to facilitate this partnership.

The Hawaii House of Representatives passed H.R. No. 56 in the 2001 session supporting acquisition of the Kahuku Ranch as part of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and the Hawaii State Senate passed a similar resolution.

I would be very grateful for the support of my colleagues for this important bill. Mahalo!

**PAYING TRIBUTE TO ERNESTO  
TAFOYA**

**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 4, 2004*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to US Navy veteran Ernesto Tafoya. Ernesto, who held the rank of Senior Chief Petty Officer, bravely answered our Nation's call to duty during World War II. Following the war, he continued to serve our Nation in the Naval Reserve, retiring in 1983 after forty years of honorable service. I consider it a great honor to recognize the sacrifices Ernesto made for his Nation before this body of Congress today.

Ernesto joined the U.S. Navy in 1943 at the age of seventeen. After months of training he became an engineman on an amphibious landing craft, and was later sent to the Pacific Theater. Ernesto's unit arrived in Hawaii in early 1945, sailed to the Marshall Islands, and eventually arrived at Leyte Gulf in the Philippines. There his unit took part in liberating the Philippines from the Japanese. Following the Philippine campaign, Ernesto was sent to Japan as part of the allied occupation force where he again served honorably. Upon returning from overseas Ernesto continued his service in our Nations Naval Reserve.

Ernesto comes from a family with a long tradition of defending our Nation's freedom. His maternal grandfather Sabino Lopez from

Chihuahua, Mexico, gained his U.S. citizenship by fighting for the Union side in the Civil War. His older brother Dewey served in the European Theater with the US Army during World War II, and was killed during the infamous Battle of the Bulge. In addition, Ernesto's children have followed in their father's footsteps, both his son and his daughter are currently serving as members of our armed forces. His daughter, Michelle Tafoya, has served honorably in the US Air Force for sixteen years, and is today being promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Ernesto's son, Carl, served in Vietnam and Desert Storm, and is currently deployed in Kuwait as an Army medivac helicopter pilot.

Mr. Speaker, later today, I will have the distinct honor of recognizing Ernesto for his service during World War II by bestowing upon him the Philippine Liberation Medal. This is a long overdue tribute to the sacrifices Ernesto endured in the defense of freedom. Ernesto, your service is the embodiment of American heroism and we are very proud of you.

**IN HONOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
CHINA'S NATIONAL DAY**

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 4, 2004*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor one of the United States' most reliable allies, the Republic of China, on the occasion of its National Day, October 10. That great nation, better known as Taiwan, has served as a mirror on our times, reflecting the agonies and dreams of the 20th Century and the soaring aspirations of the new century. The ROC was born of the tragedy of Communist betrayal, reared in the tension of the cold war, and reached maturity during the information age.

The ROC was the first casualty of Imperial Japanese aggression and our staunch ally in the fight to free the Pacific of that tyranny. In 1949, Chinese Communists seized power on the mainland and the central government of the Republic of China relocated to Taiwan. Since that time, we have rightfully considered Taiwan's security of vital interest to the United States. In 1950, President Truman ordered the Seventh Fleet to protect Taiwan from attack by the Chinese Communists and we have maintained a presence in the area ever since. Moreover, the Congress has consistently expressed its support of the ROC since the passage of Taiwan Relations Act of 1979.

Mr. Speaker, Taiwan has developed into a premier Asian democracy, having peacefully evolved from one party rule to the vibrant home of multi-party elections.

Taiwan's political development has been complemented by its economic rise as one of Asia's "Four Tigers," along with Hong Kong, Singapore, and South Korea. Since 1949, the ROC's economy has moved from a leader in agricultural exports, to a major manufacturer of small electronics and consumer goods, to today's premier Asian producer of capital- and technology-intensive commodities, such as personal computers and machinery. Because its economy has achieved such rapid growth, Taiwan boasts one of the world's highest standards of living, with only 1 percent of its population below the poverty line in 2000.

Today, the ROC is an irreplaceable part of the world economy and vital to continued growth here in the U.S.

I know that my colleagues will join me in wishing Taiwan's President Chen Shuibian, its Representative here in the U.S., Dr. David Tawei Lee and the 23 million people of Taiwan a most happy National Day and continued peace and prosperity.

**PAYING TRIBUTE TO CHUCK  
KORNMAN**

**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 4, 2004*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to Chuck Kornman, a dedicated humanitarian from Grand Junction, Colorado. Chuck has spent his entire life serving other people during times of desperation, and I would like to join my colleagues here today in recognizing his tremendous leadership and service before this body of Congress and this Nation.

Chuck began his professional career as a minister, and after retiring 15 years ago became a volunteer for the Red Cross. This year he will turn 81 years old, and as a family-service coordinator, Chuck travels to disaster sites all over the world to help those affected. He spent 3 months in New York City after the terrorist attacks on September 11 and more recently has aided those afflicted by the floods in Texas, the ice storms in Oklahoma, and the tornado devastated area in southeast Nebraska. Chuck not only interviews victims of natural disasters about their needs, but also provides an unparalleled level of support.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to honor Chuck Kornman for his dedication and commitment to others. In the pinnacle of his life, he serves as an example to all of us. It is with great pleasure that I recognize him today before this body of Congress and this Nation. Thank you, Chuck, for everything you have done. I wish you the best in all of your future endeavors.

**HONORING LYNDA THEIL FOR 33  
YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE**

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 4, 2004*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lynda Theil on her retirement from 33 years of public service as a staff member in the House of Representatives. A dedicated staffer, a tireless worker, a sharp mind, and a good friend, Lynda's dedication to working on behalf of our nation's children has been nothing short of inspiring.

Lynda began her career on the Hill working for Ohio Congressman John Seiberling in January of 1971, the beginning of the 92nd Congress. She worked for Rep. Seiberling through the birth of her two daughters, Corbin and Ashley, who she has raised into intelligent, sophisticated and beautiful young women. Upon Rep. Seiberling's retirement, Linda transitioned to the staff for his successor, Congressman Tom Sawyer at the beginning of the 100th